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to the prevalence of plague and cholera in and around Bombay, as reported in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, I thought it proper to inform the Bureau of this matter.

Respectfully,

H. W. WICKES,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 7, 1900.

SIR: Replying to your inquiry of March 13 relative to bone dust, I have to say that the sample submitted by you was examined in the hygienic laboratory and found to contain large numbers of bacteria resembling those commonly found in soil. It was noticed that sand or gravel was mixed with the bone.

According to experiments conducted in the hygienic laboratory, it was found that the bacillus of plague remained alive on a piece of textile twenty-one days. Further work on this line is being carried on which may demonstrate a longer life under similar conditions.

Bone is an equally favorable medium, and you are therefore informed that this bone dust may possibly carry plague and should not be shipped from infected localities.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,

Surgeon-General U. S. M. H. S.

P. A. Surg. H. W. WICKES,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Glasgow, Scotland.

Report from Glasgow.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, March 29, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows for the week ended March 24, 1900: On March 22 the steamship *Ethiopia* sailed for New York. Eighty-three second-cabin and 127 steerage passengers were inspected and passed. Their baggage was inspected and passed with the exception of 2 bundles of bedding, which were disinfected. On the same date the steamship *Norwegian* sailed for Portland, Me., via Halifax. There were 39 cabin passengers, all for Halifax, and 27 steerage passengers, 12 of whom were to land at Portland.

Four of the steerage passengers which were to land at Halifax were also destined for the United States by rail. Their baggage was inspected and passed, with the exception of 5 bundles containing feathers and bedding, which were disinfected and labeled accordingly.

Bills of health were issued during the week to 2 vessels with cargo and 1 new vessel in ballast. I inclose herewith the weekly abstract of bills of health issued.

Respectfully,

H. W. WICKES,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Bubonic plague at Cape Town on steamship Kilburn from Rosario.

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, March 7, 1900.

SIR: I have to inform you of the arrival in this port yesterday of the vessel *Kilburn* from Rosario, South America, with 4 cases of bubonic plague.

Result of bacteriological examination proves the disease to be what is known as the oriental or bubonic plague. The *Kilburn* only entered the roadstead, and has been sent to Saldanha Ban, in quarantine camp many miles up the west coast. The captain of the vessel died and was buried at sea, but it is impossible to say whether his death was or was not due to plague. The steamer carried no doctor, having only a crew of 32 all told.

I am of the opinion that the quarantine will be successful, as no connection was made with shore. Dangers from other vessels arriving with suspicious cases on board, possibly eluding the vigilance of the medical authorities, may be feared.

Respectfully,

J. G. STOWE,
United States Consul-General.

Hon. THIRD ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

SPAIN.

Report from Barcelona.

BARCELONA, SPAIN, *March 26, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the usual report and to transmit the weekly abstract of bills of health for the week ended March 24, 1900: On March 20, bark *Progreso*, Barcelona to Brunswick, in ballast, was inspected; crew, 14. On March 24, steamship *Alicante*, Liverpool to Manila, was inspected; crew, 101; cabin passengers, 32; steerage passengers, 28; inspected and passed.

Smallpox is on the increase. It is impossible to obtain the exact number of cases, but it is quite prevalent at this time; otherwise the health of the city is about as usual.

Respectfully,

JOHN F. ANDERSON,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

TURKEY.

Report from Constantinople.

[Report No. 241.]

Public health in Constantinople.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *March 24, 1900.*

The epidemic of influenza is spreading in Constantinople. We can not say that it has a very severe character, but we may say that the increasing number of deaths registered every week is due to said epidemic. Said number of deaths registered from the 5th to the 19th instant is 669, of which 7 are from diphtheria, 8 from measles, 13 from typhoid fever, and 58 from acute inflammation of the respiratory system. The bad weather which has prevailed since the beginning of March contributes very much to the latter illness. I have already reported that during the winter months of December, January, and February the weather was rather mild.

Sanitary news from the provinces.

The sanitary physician of Prevesa in Epyrus reports under January, 1900, that in spite of the very imperfect sanitary conditions of said city there were only 6 deaths registered during the month of last December.